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REMARKS

In accordance with the forgoing, claims 1, 5-7 and 9-13 have been amended and claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-13 are pending and under consideration. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

I. Amendments to the Claims

While no objections to the claims were made by the Examiner, certain minor amendments were made merely to more clearly set forth the invention, and were not made for reasons related to patentability or to narrow the scope of the claims. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3, 6 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Publication US2004/0260355 to Holleman et al. ("Holleman").

Independent claims 1 and 12 of the present invention is directed to a medical system that includes an adaptor having an internal surface forming a lumen and a inner surface forming a lumen to receive a lead connector. The adapter includes a flange extending outward from the inner surface and within the lumen to selectively engage any one of a plurality of connector pads of a lead connector when the connector is engaged within the lumen and the adapter is rotated about an extending from the proximal end to the distal end of the adapter, and an external surface to engage an inner surface of a connector bore and including a conductive surface electrically coupled to the flange to electrically engage the flange within the connector bore.

Holleman teaches an adapter that couples multiple high-voltage connector elements included on a plurality of medical electrical lead connectors to a single connector port to facilitate alternative high-voltage vectors. Holleman does not

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teach a flange extending outward from the inner surface and within the lumen to selectively engage any one of a plurality of connector pads of a lead connector when the connector is engaged within the lumen and the adapter is rotated about an axis extending from the proximal end to the distal end of the adapter, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 12 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 2, 3, and 6 dependent thereon and independent claim 12 and claim 13 dependent thereon are patentable distinguishable from Holleman. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holleman in view of US Patent No. 5,843,141 to Bischoff et al. ("Bischoff"). Claims 7-11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holleman in view of US 4,469,104 to Peers-Trevarton ("Peers-Trevarton"). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Bischoff teaches a pulling tool for pulling a lead connector assembly proximally in a bore of a connector block from a first position in which the lead's connector assembly is not fully inserted in the connector block to a second position in which said connector assembly is fully inserted in the connector block, the pulling tool being provided with a mechanical connector which engages with mechanical connector on the lead's connector assembly.

Peers-Trevarton teaches a connector assembly with spaced apart metal bands. Neither Hollemann, Bischoff or Peers-Trevarton, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a flange extending outward from the inner surface and within the lumen to selectively engage any one of a plurality of connector pads of a lead connector when the connector is engaged within the lumen and the adapter is rotated about an axis extending from the proximal end to the distal end of the adapter, as set forth in claim 1 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 4, 5 and 7-11 dependent thereon are patentable distinguishable from the

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referenced prior art documents. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

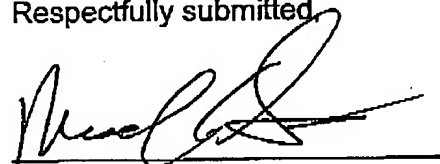
IV. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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